



Birthstone: Diamond

Anita Dresner, from the April 2010 Chips and Chatter

Diamond - ancient Greek *adamas* (*αδάμας*) meaning “invincible”.

Birthstone of April, sixty-year anniversary symbol, used for the arms of nobles, and was used in religious icons in ancient India, and a signature of betrothal in engagement rings.

The 19th century saw an expanded popularity of the diamond, partly because of the improved cutting and polishing techniques and their growing supply. Almost half of all diamonds come from Africa with lesser quantities coming from Canada, Australia, India, Russia, and Brazil. During this time, their popular demand greatly rose with the growth in world economy and advertising blitz.

Diamonds come in various colors. Colored diamonds have impurity inclusions that cause the color; usually the impurities replace a carbon atom in the crystal lattice, known as a carbon flaw. The most common of colors range from yellow to brown. Diamonds are the hardest natural material; its hardness on Mohs scale of mineral hardness is 10 (hardest). Their hardness has been known since antiquity. But, an allotrope of carbon first synthesized in 2005 known as aggregated diamond nanorods, are even harder than diamond.

To keep your diamonds looking their very best, they need care. Cleaning them at least once a month will remove the natural elements they come in contact with, such as body oils, make up, and even grease that is in the air. Give them a bath in a warm water solution using dish washing liquid, rinse in warm water then pat dry. There are other methods of cleaning also. There is the sonic vibration sold with its own solution and also jars of dipping solutions. Whichever

method you choose, be certain to read the instructions and follow them.

- Did you know about these records for largest diamonds?
- The Cullinan Diamond, was the largest gem-quality rough diamond ever found (1905), at 3,106.75 carats, and is part of the British crown jewels.
 - Cullinan I or the Great Star of Africa, one of the diamonds cut from it, was formerly the largest gem-quality cut diamond at 530.2 carats.
 - Golden Jubilee (1985), a 545.67 carat, yellow-brown diamond followed the Great Star of Africa in size.
 - The Centenary Diamond, which weighs 273.85 carats, is the largest flawless and colorless (grade D) diamond.
 - The Millennium Star is the second largest (1990) at 203.04 carats.
- Historical claims are diamonds possess several supernatural powers:
- They give victory to he who carries it bound on his left arm, into confrontation.
 - It is good for sleepwalkers and the insane, as it clears their path.
 - A diamond's hardness can only be broken by smearing it with fresh goat's blood.

Think about this: Travis Metcalfe, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, believes that the galaxy's largest diamond is the core of the white dwarf star BPM 37093. Observations indicate that the core is a diamond crystal 4000 km in diameter.

Ref:

<http://www.costellos.com.au/diamonds/index2.html>

<http://thebrazilianconnection.com/diamondinfopage.html> Britannica

<http://www.answers.com/topic/diamond>

Picture: Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org> Photographed+ by Mario Sarto, GNU Free Documentation License version 1.2

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

- Apr 6, Rusk, TX, Keith Harmon rock and used equipment sale, 9116 US Hwy 84 West, Rusk, TX 75785
- Apr 13-14, Abilene, TX, Central TX G&MS, Abilene Convention Center, kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net
- Apr 19-21, Alpine, TX, Chihuahuan Desert G&MC, Alpine Civic Center, ocoent895@gmial.com
- Apr 19–21, Dallas, International Gem & Jewelry Show, Market Hall, /www.intergem.com/
- Apr 26-28, Conroe, TX, RMGM Promotions, Lone Star Conv. & Expo Cntr, <https://www.rmgmpromotions.com>
- May 4-5, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Events Center, <https://wacogemandmineral.org>
- May 25-26, Ft. Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MC, Will Rogers Memorial Cntr, www.forthgemandmineralclub.org
- Jun 1-2, Lubbock, TX Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, www.lubbockgemandmineral.org
- Jun 6-9, Austin, TX, Natures Treasures of Austin, Norris Conf. Center, <https://ntrocks.com/international-exposition-of-agate>
- Jun 29 - 30, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, www.agemclub.org
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Ref:

- January-February 2019 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

The Old “Rocks’n” Chair

by Marilyn Gilbreath

I worked, and I’m weary, and I’m headed to rest

In a shaded back yard chair would surely be best

Arriving, I surveyed the scene--how unfair!

The choice seat was taken by the old rocks’n chair

This poem was the 2017 SCFM Editor and Author Contest winner in the Adult Poetry category, from the May 2017 Stone Chipper, Newsletter of the Austin Gem and Mineral Club



Visit an Area Club

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
[Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30, Wild Beads, 2833 Galleria Dr., Arlington, TX

La Madona Rosa

Have a blessed Easter



If you are looking at this page printed in black and white, please visit our web site, www.pogmc.org and look for the color picture in the April 2019 issue of the Chips and Chatter.

This beautiful Rose and Smokey Quartz specimen is currently on display in the Lyda Hill Hall of Gems and Minerals, Perot Museum of Nature and Science for a limited time. Due to its strong resemblance to the Virgin Mary with the Baby Jesus is named La Madona Rosa and often called the Mother with Child. Although the history of this piece is not clear, most experts believe it to be from the Lavra Berilo Branco Mine, Sapucaia do Norte, Galiléia, Doce Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

I'm Just a Volunteer

By Kinney Polve, East Texas Gem & Mineral Society
From the March – April 2019 SCFMS Newsletter

Those of you that know me, know that I have volunteered to serve in many different positions, serving the needs of our local club. As a volunteer, we may not always be the most popular person, and sometimes it may seem that we may be too popular. Non-profits depend on volunteers. Some of us still have full-time jobs, while others may work part-time or may be retired. In this article I want to stress the importance of volunteering.

Without members willing to donate some of their time to serve the needs of the organization, eventually the organization doesn't function as designed or even fails to accomplish its purpose. This can even happen when we have enough volunteers. You may be complexed on how this is even possible, failing even though we have plenty of volunteers? The adage, "I'm only a volunteer" or "They're only a volunteer", is where the problem begins. This saying comes up regularly when it comes to non-profits. Somehow it seems that there is a different standard required of a volunteer, than required of someone who is paid to do a job. When you volunteer to fill a needed position, they need someone to perform the duties of that position, not most or part of the duties. Many of the volunteers that serve in these positions tend to take such an approach, some may even hold the position just for the title. This is when the organization fails to operate as designed. When people hold an office and make little effort to do the duties of that office, and they look at it as, I'm only a volunteer.

This happens at all levels, whether it's locally, regionally, or on a national level. It may be because we don't want to have an office with a vacancy, so we coerced someone to take the office. It may be a case were someone had performed great in the past, but has now become complacent toward their position. They may continue to accept the nomination for the office, but it would be no different than having a vacancy in that office. This wouldn't happen if qualified members would answer the call to fill these offices. It could just be a result of the person not knowing the duties of their office, so they can't perform them.

Most volunteer positions require very little time to perform the duties. There may be certain times of the month or year that the job load is heavier, and require you to devote more time, but it is important to dedicate the extra time. When we have one member serving in several different positions, their schedule may get overloaded and they may even become burned out. When this happens, they seem to completely leave all positions, instead of stepping back from a few to relieve the load. Some of us realize more than others what is needed to keep our organization growing.

Also, thinking somehow a retired member's time is less valuable than someone with a full-time job. I know by personal experience that retired people seem to have less spare time available than people that have a full-time job, simply because there is more of a demand for their time. Most of us don't think beyond our local club, but we should. Just like us, the SCFMS and the AFMS need members to serve as officers and chair people. There are some that look at their office as, I'm only a volunteer, and how much better would it be if we had members that knew the importance of the offices, and they filled those offices and did the job? I don't want you to misunderstand, we have many great volunteers fulfilling their duties, and I want to commend them. But understand that there is no place for the adage "I'm only a volunteer." There's no such thing as only a volunteer, so get out there and volunteer.



NOTE FROM THE SCFMS EDITOR

The preceding opinion editorial was submitted by one of our members. It does not necessarily express the views of the editor of this newsletter or the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies.

Note from the POGMC Editor

Just for the record, I am not the only one who recognizes (pleads) for volunteers. We have had the same officer and editor for way to many years – we need some new help. Please!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

We participated in the STEM Fair at Brookhaven February 23. Based on the number of tumbled rocks we gave away, our booth was quite successful. Most everyone also wanted to try out the All-In-One to "polish" a stone. Our April 4, 2019 meeting will start at 7:30 (normal time). We will view a DVD for the program. Remember IGEM is coming up again April 19 – 21, plan for set up on Wednesday, April 17.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2019

President: Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Open
Secretary: Lee Elms
Treasurer: Del Grady
Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com,
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

MEETING MINTUES

Call to Order: The March 7, 2019 club meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ling Shurtz. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by all of us.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 2019 meeting as printed in the March 2019 Chips and Chatter were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Butch and seconded by Carolyn. We voted and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was deferred until next month.

Old Business:

- The Brookhaven College STEM Fair was February 23rd, 10-6pm. Cheryl, Ling and Don manned the POGMC Table. Free tumbled rocks were distributed to kids (and to a few kids at heart). The All-In-One was open for use by participants.

New Business:

- Boy Scouts would like POGMC to participate at a STEM Fair on May 4th. It is sponsored by UTD, Toyota, and BSA (STEM Scouts). We discussed it and decided Science and Technology didn't really pertain to rocks, minerals and Paleontology.
- Next IGEM is April 19-21 at Market Hall. Set-up on April 17th starting in the early afternoon.

Area Shows:

- March 2-3, Big Spring, Tx, Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard County Fair Grounds,
- March 2-3, Robstown, Tx, Gulf Coast G&MS, Richard M Borchard Fairgrounds, www.gcgms.org
- March 7-10, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWNM State Fairgrounds in Deming, thedgmsclub.com
- March 9-10, San Antonio, Tx, Southwest G&MS, San Antonio Event Center, swgms.org
- March 15-17, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, jaypenn246@gmail.com
- March 23-24, Cedar Rapids, IA, Cedar Valley MWF& AFMS CONVENTION, Hawkeye Downs Expo Ctr.
- March 29-30, Ada, OK, Ada G&MC, Pontotoc County Agriplex, bfreeman.1966@yahoo.com

We took our break and had a wonderful Irish feast of corned beef and cabbage cooked by Carolyn and Del. Ling brought her tasty carrots, Lee brought boiled and then buttered baby red potatoes, and Cheryl brought her yummy zesty cole slaw and also a bowl of watermelon. And we had chocolate dipped coconut macaroons for dessert.

For our show and tell presentation Ling brought a beautiful intricately carved serpentine ball that was 4 balls- one inside the other. Don brought a piece of limestone with a decoupage printed saying on it. Cheryl brought a long stone that has an interesting circle on the rounded end of it. Carolyn showed us the pretty rock she had won on the raffle table.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lee Elms, Secretary

MEETING

Our next meeting will be April 4, 2019 at 7:30 PM. We plan to view a DVD segment, either from the Great Courses series or from the 2017 Dallas Mineral Symposium.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

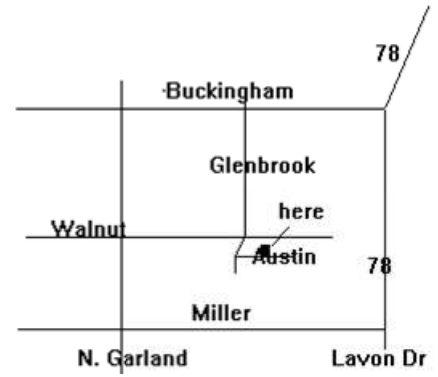
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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



Meetings:
 First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM
 Garland Women’s Activities Building
 713 Austin St., Garland, TX
 (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)

Membership
 Single Adult: \$16.50,
 Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
 (Plus badge fee for new members)



PURPOSE

The Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is organized for charitable and educational purposes to promote interest in the various earth sciences, particularly those hobbies dealing with the art of cutting and polishing gemstones, the science of gems, minerals and metal crafts, as well as their related fields. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club
 PO Box 831934
 Richardson, TX 75083-1934

To:

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next meeting will be March 7, 2018 starting at 7:00 PM (Note the early start). We will have a pot-luck dinner (bring a dish to share) and an informal Show and Tell (bring a rock, mineral, tool, etc.)

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